

WELCOME ADDRESS BY
PROFESSOR SHEHU U. ABDULLAHI, OFR, mni
VICE-CHANCELLOR, AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY, ZARIA
ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT OF
AMBASSADOR JOHN CAMPBELL, THE UNITED STATES
AMBASSADOR TO NIGERIA ON
TUESDAY, 6TH FEBRUARY, 2007

Protocols

It is my great pleasure and honour to welcome to Ahmadu Bello University, His Excellency, Ambassador John Campbell, the American Ambassador to Nigeria, and the members of the Public Affairs and Political Sections of the Embassy. On behalf of the Management, Staff and Students of the University, I wish to express our profound gratitude to you for honouring us with this visit.

Your Excellency, Ahmadu Bello University was founded in 1962 as a Northern Regional University. It became a Federal University in 1975 and is categorised as a first generation university. ABU has 2 campuses in Samaru and Kongo, 12 Faculties, 84 Academic Departments, 14 Institutes and Centres, a Postgraduate School and a School for Basic and Remedial Studies. The University has an undergraduate student population of over 40,000; 5,000 postgraduate students; 1,600 Academic Staff and 5,500 non-teaching staff. The size and complexity of its units and a land area of 7,000 hectares simply make ABU the largest university in Sub-Saharan Africa. It is also the

most cosmopolitan university in Nigeria.

Ahmadu Bello University greatly benefitted from the U.S. Government in the past. The Faculties of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine were established mostly through the USAID programmes. Similarly, staff capacity building in the two faculties was also enhanced through USAID. In recent time, Your Excellency, ABU has had a very good working relationship with the U.S. Embassy. The Embassy has rendered and facilitated many forms of assistance to the University and its staff members. We are indeed grateful and hope that this will continue.

The topic on which Ambassador Campbell will speak, **Democracy and Elections**, is very apt and should be of interest to all of us considering that we are preparing for a general election. I have no doubt that we will learn a lot from the lecture.

As you have seen in the programme, after this lecture, Ambassador Campbell will visit Demonstration Secondary School to present certificates of award to 30 students of the school. The students are beneficiaries of the United States Access English Micro-Scholarship Programme. This is one of the programmes of assistance we are benefitting through the Embassy. We are very grateful.

With these few remarks, I would like to, once again, welcome Ambassador Campbell and his entourage to ABU.

Thank you.